

fine white maculae of irregular form; antennal segments annulate with white on the base beginning with third. Length: 17 mm.; width: 5½ mm. Described from an individual from Congo in the Paris Museum'' [a translation of the original description].

BOOK NOTICE

MONOGRAPH OF THE TENEBRIONIDAE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. Vol. I (Tentyriinae, Molurini.-Trachynotina: Somaticus Hope). By C. Koch. xiii + 242 pp., 158 text figs. (two are tipped-in folding pp.), 24 pls. (2 in color), 2 large folding maps. Pretoria: Memoir No. 7 of The Transvaal Museum, P. O. Box 413, Pretoria. 1955.

It is startling to read in the preface to this book that the monograph is expected to run to 25 or 30 volumes. One wonders how an author, even though he can give all his time to field work and taxonomic research, and has adequate help and financial backing, can hope to complete such a task. When it is realized that 48 earlier papers by Dr. Koch, cited in the bibliography to this volume, comprise nearly 3,000 printed pages plus 159 plates, with over 800 text figures—the wonder almost vanishes!

Dr. Koch states that about one million specimens have been studied to date, yet this represents only some 1,500 described species; by the end of the monograph he expects there will be 5,000 species “. . . of what is probably the most ancient family of Coleoptera” known from Southern Africa. This will include all discovered Tenebrionidae “from African localities, situated south of a line drawn across the continent from the Kunene River in the West to the Zambesi River in the East”; or in other words, from the southern border of Angola, eastward along the Zambesi to its mouth in Mozambique. This work will result in fundamental changes in the classification of the family, and as time permits, intercontinental studies will lead to a new classification.

The present volume shows the author's broad and interpretative knowledge of the morphology and zoogeography of his group. A thorough investigation of body structure is essential in the Tenebrionidae, the great simulators of the Coleoptera, where even close and detailed similarities may not indicate monophyletic origin.

Dr. Koch makes two divisions of the family (I omit his supporting characters): Abdomen without intersegmental membranes between distal sternites (tentyrioid Tenebrionidae, with only one subfamily, Tentyriinae).

Abdomen with intersegmental membranes between distal sternites, except for Caenocrypticini, Belopini, and entire Cossyphini [which have other recognition characters] (tenebrioid Tenebrionidae, with several subfamilies).

He sinks Casey's tribe Araeoschizini (Texas to California, etc.) under Stenosini, and questions other of Casey's conclusions.

Plates I-V are lithographs by the late A. Raffray; X-XI are in color, from paintings by A. von Peez and F. Diehl. The reproduction of figures on the plates is excellent, and the photographs taken with special equipment manufactured by C. Reichert of Vienna, are outstanding. Much credit should go to the Board of Trustees of the Transvaal Museum, and to the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, for sponsoring this long-time project. There is no doubt that Dr. Koch is the right man, at the right time, in the right place.—HUGH B. LEECH, *California Academy of Sciences*.